

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

SEP 21 2007

Remarks

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated June 22, 2007. Claims 1-5 and 7-9 remain for further consideration.

A negative IDS was filed with the application.

On page 5 of the specification, it is clear that fuel channels 71 have transverse portions 73 which may have either one groove 77 or two grooves 78, 79. Applicant is entitled to express the details of the invention in accordance with 35 USC 112. There is nothing wrong with the drawings. Therefore, this objection to the drawings should be withdrawn. Page 7 has been amended to eliminate reference to number 129. Therefore, withdrawal of this objection to the drawing is requested.

Claim 6 has been cancelled.

It is submitted that, as referred to hereinabove, it is clear that channels are made up of 1 or 2 grooves. Thus, there is a clear distinction between the meanings of the words.

1. Claim 5 is rejected under -112-1 as not enabled. However, in Fig. 8, the width is 69.5 mm whereas the length is only 54.5 mm, therefore the width to length ratio is enabled by Fig. 8. Claim 5 has been amended with the word "respectively" so as to eliminate length to length or width to width. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the -112 rejection of claim 5, in view of the amendment, is respectfully requested.

2. Claim 5 is rejected under -112-1 as not enabled due to "on the order of". Claim 5 has been amended to "about the same as" which is supported at page 5, line 23, and is expressly permitted in MPEP 2173.05(b). Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this -112 rejection is respectfully requested.

3. Claim 5 is rejected under -112-2 with respect to "on the order of". Claim 5 has been amended to refer to "about equal to". Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the -112-2 rejection with respect to amended claim 5 is respectfully requested.

4. Claims 1, 2 and 6-9 are rejected as anticipated by Fuji. Claim 1 requires: (lines 2 and 3) "said plate having a plurality of grooves forming channels"; (lines 9 and 10) "each of said channels having a transverse portion"; (line 15) "some, but less than all of said transverse portions having more than one groove." Fuji has "gas flow passage grooves 44a-44f" (3:51). Lines 3 and 4 of claim 1 define "a longitudinal flow direction extending

between said inlet ends and said outlet ends." In Fuji (3:54), that would be the "horizontal direction (direction of the arrow B)". The transverse direction must then be the direction of the arrow A. In the transverse portions of gas flow passages 44a-44f adjacent to the manifold holes 38a, 40a, there is only one groove in the transverse portion of each gas flow passage 44a-44f. In the area adjacent to the manifold holes 40b, 38b, one might say that the converse of the invention is present. Claim 5 calls for "grooves forming reactant gas flow channels" (line 3) and "each of said channels having a transverse portion" (line 11) and that "some...portions having more than one groove". There is nothing in Fujii indicative of a channel (a gas flow passage) having more than one groove. The claimed transverse portions are of an individual channel, and not transverse portions of a fuel flow field plate. In fact, if the areas 92, 94 (Fig. 6) are deemed to be transverse portions of the grooves 48a-44f, all of said grooves have less than one channel in their transverse portions. On the other hand, if the areas 92, 94 are deemed to be transverse portions of the grooves 50a-50d, then each of said channels have only one groove in the transverse portion (below the actual points 92, 94 in Fig. 6). In any event, Fujii does not meet the language of claim 1. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, and 6-9 as anticipated by Fujii is respectfully requested.

5. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected as obvious over Fujii in view of Tawfik. Applicant does not agree that Tawfik discloses interdigitated channels. However, it is agreed that Washington does. There is no indication in either Fujii, Tawfik or Washington as to how one would accommodate interdigitated channels that may have either only one, or more than one, groove. Therefore, and because claims 3 and 4 depend from patentable claim 1 as described hereinbefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3 and 4 and allowance thereof over Fujii and Tawfik is respectfully requested.

6. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected as obvious over Fujii in view of Washington. As stated in paragraph 5, there is no indication in Fujii, Washington or Tawfik as to how one would accommodate the interdigitated channels so that they would have one or two grooves in transverse areas. Further, claims 3 and 4 are patentable as depending from claim 1. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3 and 4 and allowance thereof over Fujii and Washington is respectfully requested.

To save the Examiner considerable time when this case is taken up, a short phone call is recommended should any issue herein still be unresolved. A few minutes on the phone could clarify a point, or result in a supplemental response which would further limit or dispose of issues. A five minute phone call can save the Examiner a lot of work. Such a phone call would be deeply appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

*M.P. Williams*

M. P. Williams  
Attorney of Record  
Voice: 860-649-0305  
Fax: 860-649-1385  
E-mail: [mw@melpat.com](mailto:mw@melpat.com)

210 Main Street  
Manchester, CT 06042

Date: September 21, 2007